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A 2011 study by the Association of American Medical Colleges ranks Idaho second to last when it comes to the number of physicians per capita. By this measure, Idaho is short on doctors.

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StateImpact Idaho is a collaboration between Boise State Public Radio and NPR. Reporters **Molly Messick** and **Emilie Ritter Saunders** travel the state to explain how economic issues affect you. Read our reports on this site, and hear us on public radio stations across Idaho.

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“Which Cities Have Biggest Education-Jobs Mismatch?”

AUGUST 29, 2012 | 10:35 AM

BY **EMILIE RITTER SAUNDERS**

The Boise metro area gap between online job postings and workers' education level is 5 percent.

 Source: **WSJ**

A recent Brookings Institution study measures the regional education mismatch between online job postings in a metro area and workers in that area. The education gap is the percentage difference between the average years of education in job postings and the average years of education in area.

As the chart below shows, there is huge regional variation, with many hard hit areas in California's inland with the biggest gaps, and brain hubs like Raleigh and Washington D.C. with the smallest gaps. For the nation as a whole, the average is about five percentage points.

[Read more at: **blogs.wsj.com**](#)

Morning Bell: Elementary School Discipline, Romney's Education Platform

AUGUST 29, 2012 | 8:15 AM

BY **ELLE MOXLEY** **Lafayette School Corp. unveils program to help elementary students who severely misbehave**

—“Director for elementary education Karen Combs detailed the proposed program, called Chance, which would serve students for whom behavior modification at their schools has proven ineffective.” *Lafayette Journal and Courier*

“If you are reading this brochure, [your child's] behavior is dangerously in the way of stopping them from learning and/or other students from learning.”

—Pamphlet to parents of kids in Lafayette's Chance program

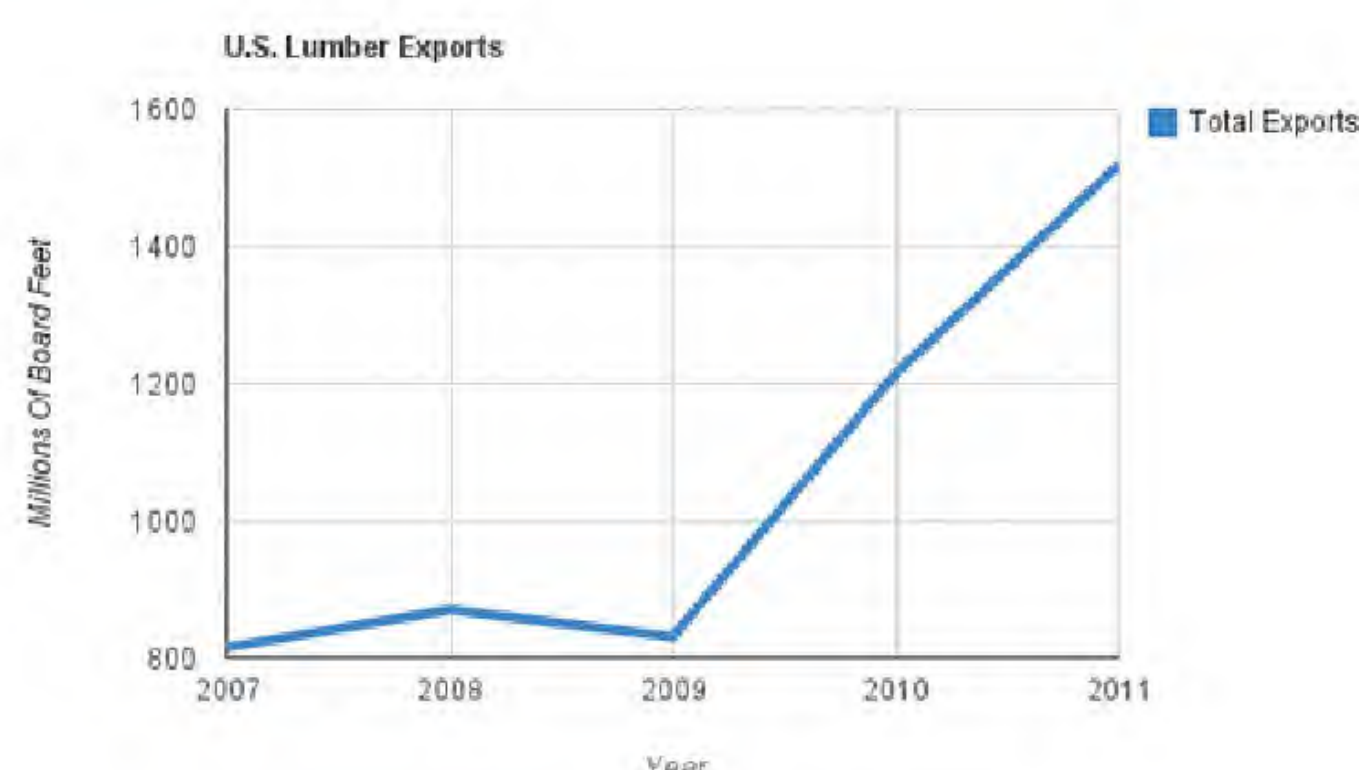
Bible college coming to former Taylor site

—“Now, both Crossroads and Grace College, a four-year liberal arts college based in Winona Lake, have a presence on the former Taylor-Fort Wayne campus along Rudisill Boulevard.” *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*

DATA

In Lean Times, Lumber Companies Look Abroad

AUGUST 7, 2012 | 1:06 PM

BY **MOLLY MESSICK**

Lately, *StateImpact* has reported a series of stories on the timber industry. We've reported on a Montana entrepreneur's effort to **start up a small mill in Emmett, Idaho** with the **help of federal stimulus funding**. We've also considered the **divergent economic realities of counties** associated with agriculture and counties associated with the timber industry. Next up: timber exports. [Continue Reading →](#)

AUDIO

Idaho Aims For Job Growth Through Gun Manufacturing

AUGUST 29, 2012 | 6:30 AM

BY **MOLLY MESSICK**

MOLLY MESSICK / STATEIMPACT IDAHO



Click above for an interactive map of all gun and ammunition manufacturers in Idaho.

A few years ago, state leaders got the idea to promote Idaho to the outdoor industry, including gun manufacturers. After all, Idaho is a more firearms-friendly place than most. **More than half of Idahoans own guns**, and state law **shields firearms manufacturers from liability**.

One North Idaho town — Potlatch — is honing its pitch to attract the gun industry and jobs. Local economic development official BJ Swanson is key to the effort. Not long ago, Swanson drove through an overgrown patch of ground on the outskirts of Potlatch, population 800. It's a humble spot, but in it she sees the town's future and its past.

Idaho Aims For Job Growth Through Gun Manufacturing[Continue Reading →](#)

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Meet Idaho Senate President Pro-Tem Brent Hill

BACKGROUND

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Senator Brent Hill joined the Idaho legislature in 2001. His colleagues voted him President Pro Tempore at the start of the 2011 session. It's the job of the Pro-Tem to set the daily schedule of hearing bills on the Senate floor and assigning bills to committee. The Pro-Tem and the Speaker of the House are the two people who can single-handedly control the discussion and debate at the legislature.

Hill was born on April 23, 1949 in Rigby, Idaho. He graduated from Madison High School in 1967 and received his Bachelors of Science in Accounting from Utah State University. Hill is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner.

Hill recently retired from his Rexburg accounting practice. He says the key to economic growth in the state is maintaining a stable tax structure and providing a solid public education. "For the most part, our legislature is very committed to our public education system," Hill says. "Our first priority is to restore some of the cuts that went to public education. Our education is an investment in the economic future as well as the future of our citizens."

Sen. Hill's [website](#) lists some of his priorities which include education funding, maintaining a pro-business tax structure, protecting Idaho's natural resources from "federal intrusion" and upholding family values, which for Hill includes rejecting abortion rights and gay marriage.

Hill and his wife Julie have four children, Justin, Ritchie, Michael and Kevin.

LEGISLATOR INFO

Sen. Brent Hill (R)
District 34

COMMITTEES

Local Government and
Taxation, State Affairs

CONTACT

1010 S. 2nd E., Rexburg, 83440
Home (208)356-7495

MORE »Source: [Open States](#)

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MAY 4, 2012

What Some States Do To Disclose Tax Incentive Info

A recent report from Pew Center on the States lists Idaho among 26 states 'trailing behind' when it comes to evaluating tax incentives. That is, having a mechanism in place to take a closer look at the state-specific incentives and exemptions on a regular basis, and to evaluate if they're doing what they were intended [...]



DECEMBER 22, 2011

Governor Otter: Any Tax Cuts Need to be Phased In

Talk of lowering taxes has already started among Idaho lawmakers. At the Associated Taxpayers Conference earlier this month, legislative leaders said proposals to lower Idaho's corporate tax and individual income tax rates will be part of the discussion. Sen. Brent Hill (R-Rexburg) says lowering taxes this session will be met with resistance, and will likely [...]



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How Overall Bans, Levy Support and Car Theft Sentences Get Embedded in Ohio Teachers' Contracts

JULY 18, 2011 | 8:30 AM
BY **MOLLY BLOOM**

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No one in the Olentangy school district seems to know quite how the Olentangy teachers' contract came to ban the wearing of overalls in the classroom. But in the midst of a 75-page contract, there **the requirement** sits in black and white amid the legalese laying out teacher salaries and benefits, grievance procedures and layoff policies.

"Year after year, in negotiations no one's had any trouble with it, so it's never come up. Why mess with it when you have bigger fish to fry?" asked district spokesperson Karen Truett.

Many districts across Ohio are in the same boat. A situation arises, perhaps a teacher adopting more casual dress in a then-rural district, the administrators and union members negotiating a contract react, and a requirement becomes set in stone, in effect year after year even after the original reason has faded from memory.

"Things have gotten into the labor agreements that were never meant to be there," said Ohio School Boards Association Deputy Director of Labor Relations Renee Fambro. (Fambro was speaking in general about public employee contracts and not about any specific sartorial rules.)

Sometimes these kinds of clauses are forgotten or ignored as they become irrelevant to a district's daily business.

In the Bowling Green school district, a 2,900-student district south of Toledo, when a levy election comes around, **the teachers' union must work to ensure teachers living in the district are registered and encouraged to vote** — and discouraged from working to defeat the levy.

"That section, of course, is because if the voters support the district, they are supporting the district and likewise the teachers should support the district," Bowling Green Treasurer Rhonda Melchi said.

Melchi said that although the requirement has been in place longer than the 15 years she's been with the district, it's never come up for discussion. She doesn't remember a time when Bowling Green teachers opposed a levy.

Many years ago in the Bedford school district, a Cleveland, the teachers' union asked to insert **a allowed teachers to request cell phones** if it "may present a particular danger." The clause was according to school district administrator Margan

District administrators said that to the best of the a cell phone. Now, with telephones installed in ev

"The cell phone clause became a moot point, but contract," Bierman wrote in an email.

In most districts, the negotiating teams engage in. But taking a provision out once it goes in is difficult discussion at the bargaining table starts with the particular requirement no longer needs to be in it

"And the union's response is, if it's no big deal, it she said.

Terms and Conditions of Employment

Money issues — salaries, raises, healthcare benefits and the like — tend to dominate coverage of teacher contract negotiations. But teachers' contracts define all sorts of things beyond those issues. Under state law, anything considered "terms and conditions of employment," must be negotiated.

Here are a few of the less-common requirements we found in Ohio teachers' contracts.

- **Bedford:** During a levy or bond issue campaign, contributions to school social committees are automatically forwarded to the campaign's coffers. Contributing is strictly voluntary, a district administrator said.
- **Cleveland:** A student who steals or vandalizes a teacher's car can't return to the school without the principal and the union chapter head's permission.
- **Olentangy:** On spirit days, logos from schools other than Olentangy's may not be worn. (This isn't always strictly enforced, according to the district spokesperson.)
- **Steubenville:** Other teachers, administrators and Board of Education members may not be criticized over the public address system, in front of students or in a public meeting. Any criticism should be confidential.
- **Sugar creek:** Teachers should be notified of any Public Records Act requests to view or copy their personnel files.

(Click here to read the full text of selected Ohio teachers' contracts.)

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- **Spring Signals Hundreds of Teacher Layoffs in Ohio**

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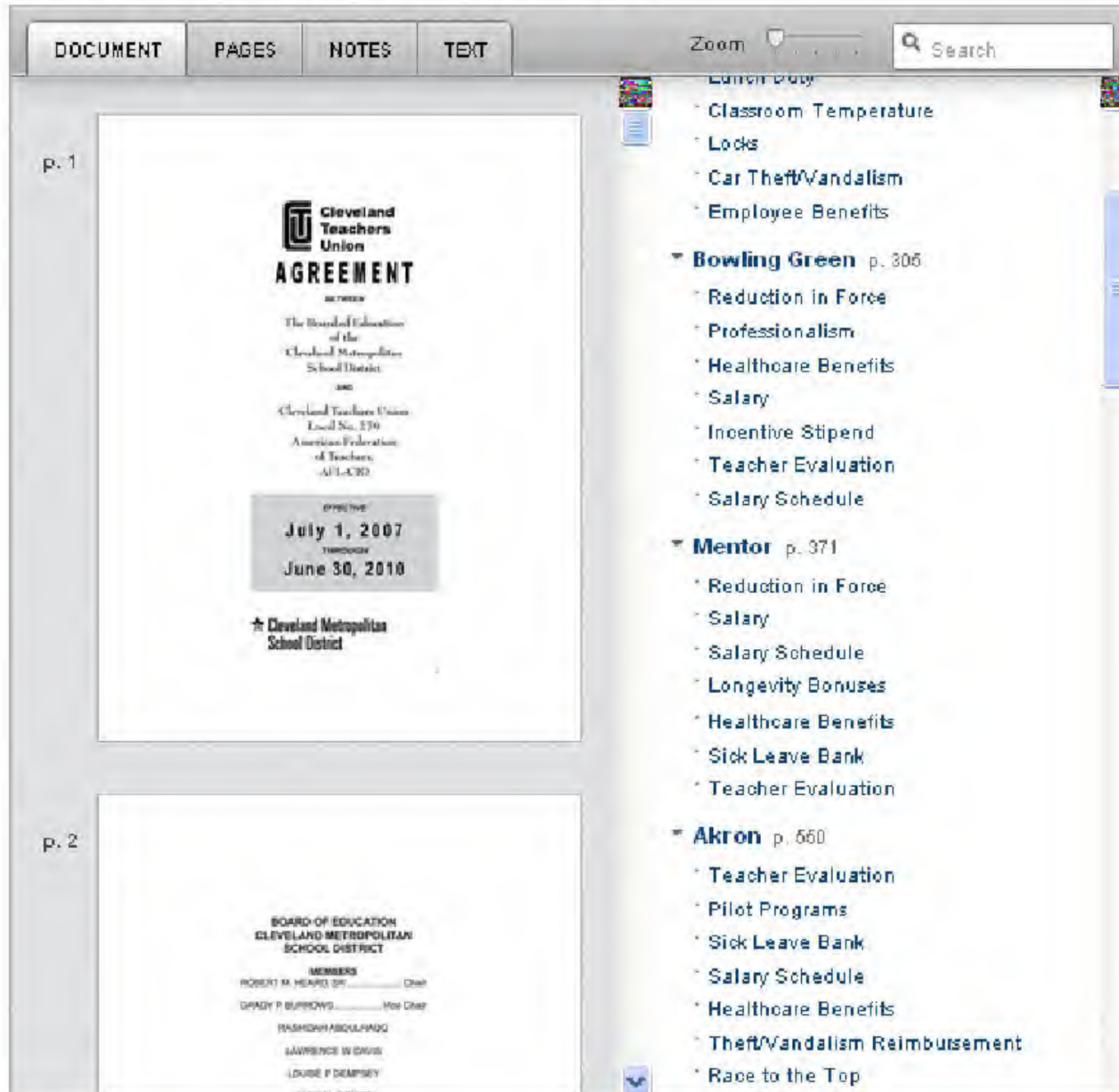
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Interactive Map: Campaign Contributions To Tony Bennett Since 2008

Tony Bennett's re-election campaign has received more than \$1.3 million in contributions since the state superintendent's initial election in November 2008. Roughly 40 percent of those contributions came from outside Indiana. We wrote up a list of the top five donors and we've posted the complete contribution data in a sortable table below the map. (We've also posted all of Democrat Glenda Ritz's contributions on a separate page.) We're curious about your feedback: Are there any contributions that catch your eye? Any patterns? Does this data raise any questions for you? Leave your answers in the comments section.



SOURCE: Indiana Secretary of State Campaign Finance Reports (November 2008 — July 2012)

Type in the box below to search for a donor to Bennett's campaign by name, city, state, zip code or amount. You can also sort the data by size of donation, city, date or contributor by clicking on the arrows in the header of the table.

Filter: Show 25 rows.

Name	Amount	Contribution Date	City-State-Zip
A+ Tutor U Learning Centers of Central Florida, LLC	\$500.00	10/26/2011	Orlando, FL 32804
Abro Facilities II LLC	\$1,000.00	10/28/2011	South Bend, IN 46628
Abro Facilities II LLC	\$500.00	2/27/2012	South Bend, IN 46628
Aiming Higher	\$25,000.00	6/21/2012	Indianapolis, IN 46204
Alan C. Stanford	\$150.00	9/30/2010	Indianapolis, IN 46240-2545
Alan E. Leighton	\$250.00	7/29/2011	Indianapolis, IN 46202
Alan Wimberley	\$150.00	10/7/2011	Pilot Point, TX 76258
Alex Johnston	\$250.00	2/7/2012	New Haven, CT 06519
Alice L. Walton	\$200,000.00	7/19/2012	Bentonville, AR 72712
Allan B. Hubbard	\$5,000.00	7/29/2011	Indianapolis, IN 46204
Allan B. Hubbard	\$2,500.00	12/16/2011	Indianapolis, IN 46204
Allan B. Hubbard	\$5,000.00	6/1/2012	Indianapolis, IN 46204
Allan B. Hubbard	\$500.00	2/10/2009	Indianapolis, IN 46204
Allen Lucas Messer	\$250.00	9/29/2009	Shelbyville, IN 46176
Amanda T. Clark	\$150.00	10/26/2011	Tallahassee, FL 32303
American Federation for Children PAC	\$1,500.00	10/26/2011	Alexandria, VA 22314
American Federation for Children PAC	\$10,000.00	12/8/2011	Alexandria, VA 22314
Amie L. McIntosh	\$1,000.00	9/30/2010	Zionsville, IN 46077
Amy Horton	\$250.00	6/21/2012	Carmel, IN 46032
Analytical Engineering, Inc.	\$150.00	4/10/2012	Columbus, IN 47201
Andre B. Lacy	\$1,000.00	9/8/2011	Indianapolis, IN 46204
Andre B. Lacy	\$1,500.00	10/7/2011	Indianapolis, IN 46204
Andre B. Lacy	\$2,500.00	5/21/2012	Indianapolis, IN 46204
Andrew E. Goebel	\$1,000.00	9/8/2011	Evansville, IN 47708
Andrew J. Cook	\$250.00	9/19/2011	Wesfield, IN 46074

SOURCE: INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS (NOVEMBER 2008 — JULY 2012)

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Discussion Community

Elizabeth Annarino 2 hours ago
I'm also curious about \$200ka from Walton. Pushing the Wal-Mart agenda of big box schools? Additionally \$10k from Alexandria, VA PAC? Seems there is an imbalance in the election process and big business has bought the Superintendent of Ed in Indiana. How is that equitable for students and professional educators?

Tommy Dolley 2 days ago
We aren't we putting this money into the schools instead of a campaign? And what does Indiana have to do with the Walton family of Bentonville?

Tommy Dolley 2 days ago
Why are we putting this money into the schools instead of campaigns. Seriously Wal-mart gave him \$200,000.00 for his campaign. Come on what does Indiana have to do with Bentonville?

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2 1 comment 1 month ago
inteach — "...the money behind HEC doesn't come from Hoosiers and it has nothing to do with economic growth. H..."

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0 12 comments 2 months ago
inteach — Scores are up. All that time devoted to test prep must be working.

Turnaround Schools Will Continue To Compete With IPS For Students, Funds

0 2 comments 1 month ago
Business_B4education — Doesn't surprise me, CSUSA started a school in Ga. I was there only a couple of months, what a disas...

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0 3 comments 1 month ago
chiph — No opportunity for feedback before... is a bunch of boloney. Teachers wanted this feedback and could...

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